MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 JANUARY 1981

Iran

Nabavi on Hostages--Minister of State of Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi has told PARS that the U.S. allegations of "torture and mistreatment" of the hostages are "completely preditable" and a result of "brainwashing" perpetrated during the hostages' "forced stay" at a U.S. military hospital. Describing such allegations as "nonsense" and "absolutely untrue," Nabavi said Iran will broadcast taped television interviews with the hostages about their living conditions to disprove the charges and thanked the Muslim students for their "kindly" treatment of the hostages during their captivity.

Iranian-Soviet Relations--A Foreign Ministry statement carried by Tehran radio reiterated Iran's "regret" over the 27 December incident at the Soviet Embassy in Tehran but said subsequent Soviet protest notes to Iran contained material "insulting" to the Iranian Government and questioned the "good will" of Iranian Government officials. The statement declared that Iran wants "good-neighbor relations" with the Soviet Union, but it questioned the Soviet motive for asserting that if Iran is incapable of providing security for the Soviet Embassy and personnel, the Soviet Union will "do the job itself." Why should the Soviet Union, which regards itself as a supporter of anti-imperialist movements, the statement asked, adopt an approach "similar to that adopted by Reagan?" Iran is "sensitive" about this matter and hopes it will be studied "expeditiously," the statement added, noting, nevertheless, that Iran is grateful to the Soviet Union for its support for Iran's "anti-imperialist positions and actions" and for its provision of transit facilities during the economic blockade. The statement concluded by claiming that the Iranian Government not only wants but is able to provide security for "all foreign missions and their staffs in Iran" and does not desire "hostile clashes of this kind."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Palme Mission--UN special envoy Olof Palme has said that he perceived a "growing interest" in Iran and Iraq toward solving the Gulf war. In an interview with Stockholm radio, Palme noted President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr's request for "clarifications" to various proposals for negotiations, although he emphasized that the two countries' positions on certain issues are still "extremely hard."

Islamic Conference Delegation--An Islamic delegation consisting of Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti, Turkish Foreign Affairs Minister Ilter Turkmen, Guinean External Affairs Minister Abdoulaye Toure, Pakistani Foreign Affairs Minister Agha Shahi and PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi arrived in Tehran on 23 January, Tehran radio's Arabic service reported. The radio stated that Iran "is completely ready" to enable the delegation to visit the battlefronts in the west and in the south to "acquaint themselves with the nature of the war imposed by Iraq" and the "ugly crimes perpetrated by Saddam's regime."

Israel

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir called in the FRG ambassador to express Israel's concern over the possible sale of West German tanks to Saudi Arabia, according to Jerusalem radio. The foreign minister said that the "clarification" from Bonn "has not been satisfactory" and that the introduction of German weapons into the Middle East is "inconceivable."

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL CONGRATULATES REAGAN ON INAUGURATION

LD221518 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA, has sent a greetings telegram to Washington congratulating Ronald Reagan on winning the U.S. Presidency.

The telegram says that it is hoped that during Reagan's administration the relations between the DRA and the United States will continue to develop in the interests of the people's of the two countries, peace in the world and detente.

KABUL WARNS RESIDENTS OF QUARRYING EXPLOSIONS

LD221224 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 0330 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] Kabul garrison command announces: The esteemed citizens of Kabul are hereby informed that, in order to excavate stone for building purposes, needed by the house construction department, explosive charges will be detonated in the hills near the factory today, Thursday, from 1300 to 1530, and tomorrow, Friday, from 0830 to 1530.

ZIAUR RAHMAN GREETS REAGAN ON INAUGURATION

BK210900 Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman has felicitated new U.S. President Ronald Reagan on his assumption of office yesterday and said he looks forward to working in close cooperation with him and his colleagues for further expanding and deepening the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries. In a message of greetings, President Zia expressed satisfaction over growing relations between Bangladesh and the United States and said over the years the two countries have established cooperation in a wide range of fields for the mutual benefit of the two people.

Referring to the period of unusual turbulance and tension through which the contemporary world is passing, President Zia hoped that the United States will make a great contribution in the years ahead in maintaining global peace and stability under the wise leadership of President Ronald Reagan.

GONSALVES, KIBRIA DISCUSS NONALIGNED MEETING

BK171348 Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] Visiting Indian External Affairs Secretary Eric Gonsalves and Bangladesh Foreign Secretary S.A.M.S. Kibria held talks in Dacca today on the forthcoming nonaligned foreign ministers conference. The conference begins in New Delhi on the 9th of next month.

Later, talking to newsmen, the Bangladesh foreign secretary said he had very useful discussions with his Indian counterpart. Kibria said the main focus of their talks was on the forthcoming nonaligned foreign ministers conference. As both Bangladesh and India are nonaligned countries, they discussed issues that are likely to come up in the conference, he added.

The two foreign secretaries also discussed bilateral issues and matters of mutual interest. They also reviewed the progress of some of the issues the foreign ministers of the two countries had agreed on during their meeting in New Delhi. The Indian foreign secretary said the discussions were both valuable and useful. He said we are satisfied with the talks and the consultations would continue.

GHANDHI DENIES ADVOCATING PRESIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT

BK231003 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jan 81

[Text] The prime minister had denied that she ever advocated the presidential form of government. Opening an orientation seminar for MP's organized by the Congress-I Party in Parliament in New Delhi, Mrs Gandhi said the presidential form does not guarantee political stability. In fact, no system is ideal or faultless. She said she only wanted a national debate on various forms of government. Besides educating the people this would help find out possible weaknesses in our parliamentary form of government. Mrs Gandhi also deplored the agitational approach adopted by some opposition parties to serve the sectional interests and demands. She said there is no ethical justification to apply the method of satyagraha [passive resistance movement] to every issue. Some have brought this method into ridicule, she added.

Mrs Gandhi said the purpose of politics is to help people realize their aspirations. Whether the two-party system or the multiparty system is good is a matter of historic evolution. Political stability does not depend on the number of political parties. The prime minister emphasized the need for politicians to be in constant touch with the people to ascertain their needs and opinions. She said political parties should serve as a kind of bridge between the people and the government. But unfortunately some political parties feel that they should function in a spirit of rivalry with the government. Their effort is to weaken the government. This is a shortsighted view, she said.

Mrs Gandhi also rejected the proportional system of representation describing it as unsuitable. She said the main objective of the election should be to provide a stable government. She strongly pleaded for reducing expenditure on elections. It is good to say that the government should meet the election expenses of candidates, but she asked how far is it practicable in a vast country like India. Even if the government does this, there is no guarantee that individual candidates will not use their own money, she added.

A number of central ministers, party office bearers and members of Parliament were present on the occasion.

GANDHI WILLING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN

BK201621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jan 81

[Text] India told Pakistan that it remains more than willing to respond to any possible measures to improve the content of relations between the two countries. This has been reaffirmed in a recent letter from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to Pakistan President General Ziaul Haq. Extracts from the letter were read out to newsmen by a Foreign Office spokesman today while replying to their questions about President Zia's reported press statement that he would visit India this year to improve relations between the two countries.

The spokesman said that the government had only seen newspaper reports, but there has been no formal communication.

Asked to comment on the general's statement and his reference to Kashmir, the spokesman said Mrs Gandhi has outlined India's approach in her letter sent earlier this month. In her communication Mrs Gandhi had recalled that in the agreement between the two countries at Simla that controversial and emotional issues which had defied solution would not be used for propaganda. This would help create an atmosphere for the promotion of friendly and harmonious relations.

She emphasized that this required a conscious decision not to interfere in each other's internal affairs, to prevent hostile propaganda against each other and to encourage dissimination of such information that would promote friendship.

Mrs Gandhi pointed out that nothing substantial seemed to have happened after the initial steps taken soon after the agreement. She reminded President Zia about the initiatives taken by India in trade, economic cooperation, scientific and cultural exchange and increased contacts between the people of the two countries for greater understanding.

Mrs Gandhi recalled that at Simla some fundamental decisions were taken to (?guard) the conducts of the two countries in the coming years because of the history of suspicion and mistrust.

RAO VIEWS FOREIGN POLICY, NONALIGNED MEETING

BK161617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Excerpts] External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has expressed the hope that some positive development on the Afghanistan question will take place fore the nonaligned foreign ministers conference begins in New Delhi early next month. During a 40-minute-long question-answer session at the Press Club of India in New Delhi today, Mr Rao said for the first time there was a positive response from both from Afghanistan and Pakistan to hold talks.

The minister said that a clear picture of the mechanics of the talks has not yet emerged. The details are to be sorted out by the secretary general. Mr Rao said the new developments of the Afghan crisis will help the nonaligned conference to evolve a positive formulation of the question. This and the Kampuchean issue will come up before the conference. He expects that the forthcoming conference will strengthen the unity of the nonaligned movement.

About India's initiative in solving the Iran-Iraq conflict, he said it will be possible to take up the threadsleft at Belgrade.

On the Indian Ocean, the external affairs minister said India would not like the competitive presence of superpowers. He expressed the hope that there will be no difficulty in holding the conference of littoral states at Colombo.

Replying to a question on India-U.S. relations, Mr Rao said he would not apprehend any deterioration in the relations after the President-elect Reagan takes over office.

About Sino-Pakistan military collaboration and Pakistan's efforts to produce nuclear weapons, the external affairs minister said India is fully aware of these developments.

Asked to comment on the recent message of the prime minister to General Ziaul Haq, Mr Rao said it is a reiteration of India's stand and perhaps the prime minister thought it to be necessary to state it again at this stage. There has been no setback in our relations with Pakistan and the prime minister's letter is an indication of it.

About the new British immigration bill, he said it is going to affect the people of Indian origin and also those belonging to other Asian countries. It will, therefore, be not acceptable to us. He, however, wanted that the provisions of the bill should be closely examined.

OFFICIALS HOLD TALKS ON NONALIGNED MEETING

BK171611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] India and Cuba have agreed to work together to bring about a consensus and unity of the nonaligned movement in the outcome of deliberations in the nonaligned foreign ministers conference being held in New Delhi next month.

The agreement emerged at the end of 3-day talks between Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Viera and senior Indian officials in New Delhi. The two sides also discussed the agenda and draft of the joint declaration of the conference. Mr Viera later called on External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao.

Later, briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said both sides agreed that attention should be given to problems relating to the international economic situation and development needs of the nonaligned countries. He said Kampuchea has not been invited to attend the New Delhi conference. This is in keeping with the decision of the 1979 Havana nonaligned summit that the Kampuchean seat will remain vacant at all levels until the foreign ministers decide otherwise. The spokesman said India has already sent invitations to 92 nonaligned countries to attend the New Delhi conference. It will be preceded by a 5-day meeting of the officials of these two countries. They will prepare the ground for the conference.

In his letter of invitation, External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao has reminded the nonaligned foreign ministers that the conference has been convened at the time of growing importance of the nonaligned movement and the sharp deterioration in the climate of international peace and security. He emphasized that the present situation calls for renewed efforts to consolidate unity and mutual cooperation among the nonaligned countries. We should reassert the image of the nonaligned movement as an independent, moral and political force in the international relations and promote peace and security in the world, he added.

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary R.D. Sathe arrived in Tehran today to discuss the nonaligned conference with the Iranian authorities. While Mr Ramesh Bhandari, secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, returned to New Delhi today from a visit to some West Asian countries in this connection, Mr Eric Gonsalves, secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, completed 2 days of talks with Bangladesh officials in Dacca.

USSR'S ARKHIPOV IN NEW DELHI FOR ECONOMIC MEETING

Arrival Statement

BK221247 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] First Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Arkhipov, who arrived in New Delhi today to participate in the sixth meeting of the India-Soviet Joint Commission, has expressed confidence that the decisions of the commission would be fruitful. Mr Arkhipov said that the main thrust of the commission work would be to implement the decisions reached at the summit meeting during Mr Brezhnev's recent visit to India.

Reddy Meeting

BK231000 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jan 81

[Text] First Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Arkhipov called on President Sanjiva Reddy at Rashtrapati Bhavan this morning. Mr Arkhipov was with the president for about 30 minutes.

Arkhipov Speech; Rao Meeting

BK231008 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jan 81

[Text] The Soviet Union has reaffirmed its full support and cooperation to India's efforts in fuel and power development. It has also suggested to India that it may examine the project to expand the Bhilai and Bokaro steel plants to 5.5 million tons capacity this year itself. The extension, according to the Soviet suggestion, will result in increased steel production with reduced capital investment.

The suggestion was given by Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Mr Arkhipov on the inaugural day of the sixth meeting of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission in New Delhi yesterday.

The 2-day meeting is expected to cover the entire range of economic relations between India and the Soviet Union. It will also give practical shape to the broad outlines of economic relations which were finalized during the recent visit of Soviet President Mr Brezhnev to New Delhi. Officials of the two sides have been having preliminary discussions for the last 10 days. It is expected that a protocol will be signed summing up the conclusions of the meeting.

Mr Arkhipov, who is also one of the cochairmen of the commission, said that India should make full utilization of its existing oil wells and activate those lying idle. He praised India's machine-building industry and said that it was mastering production of new types of equipment to be supplied to the Soviet Union and other countries. Mr Arkhipov urged the commission to consider long-term prospects of exporting products to the Soviet Union.

Mr Arkhipov earlier had half an hour meeting with External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao, who is the other cochairman of the commission. They are understood to have discussed international developments and other matters of mutual interest. Welcoming Mr Arkhipov to the commission as its tried and trusted friend, Narasimha Rao said India and the Soviet Union should strive to see that the shape of the future international economic order is reflected in the structure of the bilateral economic relations. Later at the dinner hosted in honor of Mr Arkhipov, Narasimha Rao said India attaches the greatest importance to the continued development of relations and cooperation with the Soviet Union.

5-YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH POLAND

BK161313 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] India and Poland today signed a new 5-year trade and payments agreement for the period 1981-85. It provides for payment in nonconvertible Indian rupees for all commercial and noncommercial transactions. The two countries also signed a trade protocol for 1981 envisaging a trade turnover of over 2,300 million rupees both ways. This will be about 16 percent more that the trade planned target of 1980.

The trade and payment agreement, which comes into force immediately, was signed by Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee and visiting Polish Minister for Foreign Trade and Shipping Ryszard Karski.

PHNOM PENH AMBASSADOR TO INDIA ARRIVES 19 JAN

BK191254 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Kampuchea's first ambassador designate, Dith Mounty, arrived in New Delhi today for taking up his assignment. Speaking after his arrival he pledged to work for strengthening his country's relations with India.

ZIAUL HAQ SPEAKS TO PAKISTANI COMMUNITY IN QATAR

BK170746 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Excerpts] Addressing two separate gatherings of the Pakistani community in Qatar, President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said he was happy to note their love for Pakistan and their devotion and dedication to work. He said he was very impressed with the way they were conducting themselves, and this would be a positive contribution to bringing Pakistan and Qatar still closer, particularly in the economic field.

About the situation at home, he said he was working to enforce Islamic values gradually and systematically, as abrupt changes would do more harm than good. He expressed the hope that the social edifice built on this basis would be strong and lasting. He said the basic aim of the Pakistan movement was to promote Islamic values.

The president said the majority of Pakistanis agreed with him that general elections in Pakistan would not be useful. He said elections would lead to tension and dissension, with adverse consequences. He said that while the Soviet military intervention in neighboring Afghanistan had created a serious situation, it would not be wise to have peace in Pakistan disturbed.

About Afghanistan, President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said this was a serious and complicated issue and its solution lay in the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and the restoration of its Islamic and nonaligned status. He said the presence of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan violates basic human values and the UN Charter. He said the approximately 1.5 million Afghan refugees who had taken shelter in Pakistan should be allowed to return to their homeland with honor and security.

Referring to the process of normalization of relations with India, the president said Pakistan wanted good relations with India on the basis of equality. He said that friendly relations would lead to lasting peace and economic development in the region.

DELHI: HAQ WANTS TO VISIT INDIA 'THIS YEAR'

BK190938 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Pakistan President General Ziaul Haq said he would like to visit India this year to help promote Indo-Pak relations. President Zia said this at a press conference during his stopover at Doha in Qatar recently. He said India and Pakistan were already moving closer.

ZIAUL HAQ VISITS JORDAN, TALKS WITH HUSAYN

For reportage on the visit of President Ziaul Haq to Amman, including his 15 January talks with King Husayn, see the Jordan section of the 16 January issue of the Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT.

ZIAUL HAQ HOLDS ISLAMABAD NEWS CONFERENCE

BK191014 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that Pakistan wishes to solve the Afghanistan problem within the framework of four principles: The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan; the return of 1.5 million refugees to their homes with honor and dignity; maintenance of Afghanistan's status as a Muslim and nonaligned nation; and allowing the people of Afghanistan to have a government of their own choice. He was addressing a news conference at Islamabad airport last night following his visit to Kuwait, Turkey, Jordan, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. The president said that intervention by a big power into a smaller neighbor cannot be condoned and there cannot be any compromise on principles.

Replying to a question, he said that efforts are being made to solve the Afghanistan issue through the UN secretary general and at other levels. He said that united efforts by Muslim countries in this context will have a positive effect on the attitude of the Soviet Union.

He said that a number of proposals were reviewed during the talks with various heads of state to solve the Iran-Iraq dispute. Some of these proposals are being considered by the Islamic foreign ministers at At-Ta'if and some other proposals are to be reviewed at the Islamic summit. He said that he would appeal to Iran to attend the conference.

The president stressed that closer cooperation among Islamic countries is the utmost need of the time as all these countries are facing similar problems. When asked whether they discussed a defense agreement among the Islamic countries, the president replied in the negative. He said that the Islamic countries should make efforts to become self-sufficient in their defense needs and forge complete understanding and unity among themselves, which will automatically establish a defense bond between them. He hoped that the Islamic countries would be able to find a solution to various problems facing them through unity and understanding.

Replying to a question on the Kashmir dispute, he said that the dispute should be solved in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people in a spirit of mutual understanding. He said that Pakistan also wishes to cooperate with India without any misgivings or doubts to find a mutual solution to the dispute which is creating misunderstanding and complications in relations between Pakistan and India.

Answering a question he said that the Federal Council is expected to be set up by March. He said that he thinks the people's participation is necessary and the people nominated for the council should represent the views of the people in a constructive manner.

Asked about the holding of a referendum on implementation of the Islamic system in the country, the president said that though there is no difference of opinion in this regard, he, however, wants the people to reaffirm their commitment to the Islamic way of life.

The president said that his exchange of views with the heads of state of the countries he visited have been fruitful and that the viewpoints of these countries and Pakistan are identical. The president also praised the Pakistanis for their hard work in the Gulf states.

Earlier, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman Gen Mohammad Iqbal Khan, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Gen Sawar Khan, Punjab Governor Lt Gen Ghulam Jilani Khan and federal ministers received the president on his arrival.

ZIAUL HAQ COMMENTS ON ISLAMIC CONFERENCE SUMMIT

ARAB NEWS Interview

BK201600 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Jan 81

[Text] The president has said that the Islamic summit will study a practical program for giving solid shape to the efforts made by the Islamic countries for a just solution to the Middle East problem.

In an interview with the Saudi newspaper ARAB NEWS, the president expressed the hope that solid and practical proposals will be formulated at the Islamic summit to end the Iran-Iraq war, as it is not only causing massive loss of life and assets but is also weakening Islamic unity. The president, who is also the current chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization, has said that he will discuss at the summit the efforts made for restoration of peace in the Gulf region under his leadership.

Regarding the proposal made by the president at the last conference of the Islamic foreign ministers in Islamabad for joint security arrangements for Islamic countries, he said that a committee of experts is assessing the proposal. He said that he is happy that a quite encouraging response has been received from the member countries of the conference to the proposal.

On Afghanistan, the president said that this issue will be an important item on the Islamic summit's agenda and that Pakistan will apprise the conference on its efforts for withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. He said that the possibilities of initiating a dialog under UN auspices have been enhanced and that Pakistan, by expressing its willingness to participate in the negotiations, has not deviated from any principle of the conference.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Interview

LD211631 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jan 81 pp 1, 2

[Shahid Urakzi report on interview with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq, presumably in Rawalpindi--date of interview not given]

[Excerpts] Rawalpindi (Pakistan)--"The Mecca summit will discuss drawing up an 'Islamic action' program aimed at consolidating the Islamic countries' efforts to each a just solution for the Palestine problem." This was contained in a statement by President Ziaul Haq who will chair the current session of the Islamic summit after completing his tour of the Gulf states. President Ziaul Haq said that he will inform the summit of the efforts which the Islamic Conference Organization under his chairmanship will exert in order to restore peace in the Gulf region. The Pakistani president expressed the hope that the Islamic summit will arrive at "practical and substantial proposals" to end the internicine war which is causing heavy losses in life and property on both sides and which weakens the Islamic nation.

Replying to a question regarding the new U.S. Republican administration, the Pakistan president said: "I expect this administration to become aware of the gravity of the problem and recognize the justice of the Palestine problem and the need to achieve a just solution to it."

Discussing the problems resulting from competition between the major powers in the area, he said: "The small countries always had to live under the shadow of states more powerful than them." He added: "These major powers often obtain concessions from the small countries in return for security guarantees, but the unity of the Islamic world could be a strong factor that could affort security to the Islamic states without their being at the mercy of the major powers."

The Pakistan president expressed the belief that the Islamic Conference would lessen the conference states' need for support by major powers to ensure their security and would play a vital role in developing greater solidarity and mutual cooperation among member states.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked the Pakistani president to comment on the proposal he submitted to the previous conference of Islamic foreign ministers concerning collective security arrangements between the Islamic states. President Ziaul Haq said that a committee of experts had discussed the proposal concerned and submitted it to the Islamic foreign ministers. He said that this proposal stems from the increasing realization of the need for collective measures by the Islamic world to ensure its security through solidarity and mutual cooperation. He expressed his delight that the proposal he submitted met with a good response from the Islamic Conference Organization's member states but said that the subject has not been included in the summit agenda.

Speaking about the Afghan problem, President Ziaul Haq said that Pakistan did not give up any of the principles declared by the Islamic Conference in its resolutions, although it has agreed to enter into a dialogue in order to search for a political solution for the problem. He said that there is now a greater possibility for initiating a dialogue under UN sponsorship.

Ziaul Haq added: The Afghan problem will be one of the important topics on the Islamic summit agenda. Pakistan will take this opportunity to acquaint the conference with the efforts being made for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from this nonaligned Muslim country.

Speaking about the Gulf security--having just returned from a 1-week trip to the countries of the area--he said: Gulf security, including the security for shipping and the oil routes, is the responsibility of the Gulf countries and nobody else's. We are convinced that these countries are capable of ensuring this.

He said that Pakistan has always supported the concept of making the Indian Ocean an area of peace free from rivalry between the major powers. This also applies to Gulf security.

Ziaul Haq was asked to comment on recent proposals on guaranteeing security for the Gulf. He said: "We support the idea that calls for eliminating from the area the rivalry between major powers, but we must not forget that the present tension and the increasing presence of the major naval powers around the Gulf is because of a number of related issues, including the denial of the justice of the Palestinian people's cause, the Israeli expansionist and aggressive plans, and the armed intervention in Afghanistan."

Ziaul Haq said: "It will be difficult to ensure that the area will remain free from tension and rivalry between major powers before these reasons are eliminated."

SAUDI-PAKISTANI NUCLEAR AGREEMENT DENIED

BK221558 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] An official spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, speaking in Islamabad, described as totally baseless and incorrect the report that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are to sign an agreement on the development of Pakistan's nuclear energy program.

The spokesman's attention was drawn to a report published in the London SUNDAY TIMES last week. The spokesman said that the report, which says that a secret dialogue which led to the agreement was held somewhere in Europe, reveals the absurdity of the report --as if the two sides could not find any secure place in their own territories. He said it is evident that such reports are circulated with ill intentions and are aimed at maligning Pakistan.

The spokesman said that Pakistan, on a number of occasions, has announced that its program for the development and research of nuclear energy is based completely on its own resources. He said that Pakistan, in its nuclear energy program, which is purely for peaceful purposes, is not willing to accept financial aid from any source. Saudi Arabia has also strongly refuted the report.

UAE PRESIDENT VISITS ISLAMABAD, MEETS ZIAUL HAQ

Arrival in Islamabad

BK220852 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Excerpts] United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in Islamabad today on a 3-day official visit. He was presented with a 21-gun salute as soon he stepped out of the aircraft.

President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq welcomed him at the airport. Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman Gen Mohammad Iqbal Khan, vice chief of army staff Gen Sawar Khan, naval chief Adm Karamat Rehman Niazi and chief of air staff Air Chief Marshall Mohammad Anwar Shamim were introduced to the distinguished guest.

Radio Pakistan's diplomatic correspondent reports that the two heads of state will discuss matters of bilateral interest in the special context of the forthcoming Islamic summit. Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates maintain cordial relations in all fields and the two countries are participating in a number of projects which will help in strengthening the economies of both countries.

22 Jan Departure

BK221608 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Excerpt] President of the United Arab Emirates Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan was accorded a very warm send off when he left Islamabad this evening at the end of a brief official visit to Pakistan. President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman Gen Mohammad Iqbal Khan, vice chief of army staff Gen Sawar Khan, naval chief Adm Karamat Rehman Niazi, chief of the air staff Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Anwar Shamim, federal ministers, members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of local bodies were among those bidding farewell to the distinguished guest at the airport. A large number of children showered flower petals on the distinguished guest and raised slogans of long live UAE-Pakistan friendship, long live Islamic unity and long live Pakistan.

During his brief stay the UAE president exchanged views with President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq on matters of mutual interest. The talks lasted for about 2 hours. The president hosted a luncheon in honor of the distinguished guest.

NABAVI REJECTS U.S. CLAIMS OF HOSTAGE MALTREATMENT

LD222208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] Behzad Nabavi, minister of state for executive affairs and government spokesman, today took part in a PARS interview and described the false allegations by U.S. officials and some released hostages concerning torture and maltreatment of the U.S. spy diplomats as without foundation, and strongly denied them. He pointed out that such allegations, in view of the record of U.S. hostility against the Iranian Islamic revolution, were totally expected and that they are indications of new excuses and the deceitful attitude of Washington's policy toward Iran.

He accused Carter and others defeated in the U.S. political arena of trying to mislead the American nation in order to make political capital. He said that all the claims made by the released hostages emanate from brainwashing carried out during their forced stay in Wiesbaden. The fact is that their stay in Wiesbaden was aimed at preventing their direct contact with the people and to prevent disclosure of the truth before Washington could disclose the points it wanted to make.

Continuing his remarks, Nabavi said: This move by America was completely predictable; actually, I myself referred to it during my interview on Sunday, 18 January. It was because of this that a series of interviews were held with the hostages which we will be forced to broadcast if they contradict them. The minister of state for executive affairs then said: The goal Carter and his new successors are pursuing is to prepare the ground to break their agreement with regard to the Algerian statement by raising such nonsense; should Washington break its undertaking we can then come to the conclusion that, despite its attempts to honor agreements reached by previous governments [as heard], the American Government is no longer bound by its own principles and laws, that it is openly flouting U.S. and international laws, that this is a new proof that U.S. agreements can no longer be guaranteed, that parties to U.S. agreements in the world cannot depend on U.S. presidents to fulfill their promises and agreements.

In another part of his interview, the minister of state for executive affairs, citing new claims by new officials in Washington and referring to the Americans' predilection for comfort, said: It is possible that the hostages said that the person watching them was armed, that they were afraid and were tortured. Considering the mentality of this type of comfort-seeking diplomat, there is no doubt that the duration of their detention was distasteful to them. Therefore, each and every one of them has interpreted the situation to his own taste.

In another part of his interview Nabavi said: If they were not simply slanderers, then by simply having a passing glance at torture chambers they themselves established at Evin, Qezel Qal'eh, Qasr Prison and all other big prisons under the diabolical and toppled Pahlavi regime, they would have realized how this hostage nation's revolutionaries were being tortured; then they would have been punished by their own humbled conscience.

Nabavi added: It would have been nice, when the spy hostages were leaving Iran, if they could have remembered only one of the tens of thousands of those tortured by the Americanized regime of the late shah; it would have been nice if they had remembered how a tortured person, a person only 5 years old, had his hands cut off on the order of the U.S. spy nest in Tehran because of his father's political activity.

In connection with the students' behavior, Nabavi said: We must express our thanks to them, for despite their profound hatred for U.S. policy and its exponents in Iran they treated the cause of their nation's misfortune so kindly. Nabavi said: We staged this revolution for the sake of a spiritual, religious and human renaissance.

We are sad that those who were trying to destroy this goal in Iran, despite the good treatment by the students, were pressured by American officials to say certain things which are absolutely untrue; these things are not even acceptable to themselves.

Why is it that the U.S. spies and Washington officials do not admit to the sort of crimes committed in Iran by those very same hostages and their former associates? Why do they not tell the American nation why the Iranians and other shackled nations consider America as the main cause of all their misfortunes? Why, instead of misrepresenting the crimes and ugly deeds they commit throughout the world in the name of the American people, and which have resulted in making the American people disreputable, do they not learn from the past and change their policy?

In conclusion, he emphasized: Having predicted all these falsifications, we held television interviews with all the so-called U.S. diplomats, especially with regard to the students' treatment of them; all of them admitted to being well treated by the students and made no complaint about their living conditions. Should Washington's politicians repeat their slanders, we will inform the people throughout the world within the coming days, after making a previous announcement via satellite, so that they will realize who is lying, who is afraid of the truth being disclosed, Washington or Tehran.

NABAVI, RAJA'I BRIEF KHOMEYNI ON HOSTAGE SOLUTION

LD221300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1036 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, accompanied by Minister of State in Charge of Executive Affairs engineer Behzad Nabavi and Dr Nurbakhsh, was received in audience this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. PARS reports that during this audience, at which Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni was also present, the prime minister presented to the nation's imam engineer Naser Arastu-Irani as the new governor general of Kordestan.

At the end of this audience Mr Raja'i talked to PARS about issues discussed with the imam. Mr Raja'i said:

On the issue of solving the hostages problem, it was necessary to explain to the imam the final results and their aftereffect; and we, together with our brothers Nabavi and Nurbakhsh, did so by presenting some reports to the imam.

He added: What happened during the final hours, I believe, was the greatest victory gained by this [hostage-taking] move. We also presented to the imam all the reports, the content of the arrangement for returning the rest of the Iranian people's rights and promises given by America in the Algerian statement. The imam encouraged us to continue our chosen route with persistence and resistance.

The prime minister concluded: I also introduced to the imam our brother engineer Naser Arastu-Irani as the new governor general of Kordestan, and he presented a report to the nation's imam pertaining to the situation in Kordestan.

RAJA'I THANKS NABAVI, OTHERS ON HOSTAGES MATTER

LD221353 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1050 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] In connection with resolving the hostages issue, the prime minister has issued a statement as follows:

In His exalted name. Now that with the help of God, the imam's guidance, and the support of Iran's Muslim and revolutionary ummah [community of Islamic believers] one of the biggest problems of the Iranian Islamic revolution's history has been resolved in the best way possible, I wish to commend and express thanks to engineer Behzad Nabavi, the minister of state for executive affairs, Dr Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the deputy minister of finance and economic affairs, and other brothers who took part in this matter, particularly the brothers and sisters in the Central Bank of Iran and in the Foreign Ministry, for their efforts. It is hoped that their efforts will be rewarded by the merciful God.

In a letter Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i also expressed thanks for the efforts of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy. The text of the prime minister's letter is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brother and sister Muslim student followers of the imam's policy: Now that we have been able, with the help of the most exalted God, the imam's guidance and support of Iran's Muslim, dedicated, revolutionary ummah, to resolve one of the biggest problems of the history of Iran's Islamic revolution in the best manner possible, I deem it my duty to thank you sincerely for your almost unbearably hard work. My dear ones, with the occupation of America's den of espionage you granted tangible expression to our Muslim ummah's anger and aversion to imperialism and the great Satan, and with your dogged steadfastness in the face of a flood of allegations and calumnies by the great Satan's domestic and foreign agents you manifested for the world to see the militant and steadfast spirit of the martyr-rearing and revolutionary Iranian ummah. Our Muslim, alert and aware nation will never forget the great revolution that was made through you, and the history of Iran's Islamic revolution will always remember the imam's statement that your work was a revolution greater than the first revolution. I hope that the most blessed effects of this great revolutionary move will be manifested more pronouncedly every day in terms of awakening, liberating, independence and self-reliance of our people and the world under oppression.

[Signed] Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i

RAFSANJANI RULES OUT 'GOOD RELATIONS' WITH U.S.

LD221858 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1657 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Interview by correspondent of Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran with Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, on 22 January, place of interview not given--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Could you please tell us the general view held by the Majlis in connection with the hostages issue and whether the U.S. undertakings [ta'hodha] coincide with the four conditions set by the Majlis?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I have not specifically raised this question with the Majlis. However, knowing what I know about their attitude and in view of the general discussions which we have had, the Majlis is completely satisfied with the measures taken. As far as we are concerned, the conditions set by the Majlis have been properly implemented. It seems that the government has handled the situation quite nicely. When I raised the issue in the Majlis and expressed my gratitude to the government, nearly all deputies confirmed it. So it seems that the Majlis is satisfied.

[Question] Since we still have some equipment and instruments there, how do you see our relations with America and possibly its other allies?

[Answer] Considering America's history in Iran, the things it has done in Iran and the colonial greed the Americans entertain, a good (?future) is not foreseeable, that is, we cannot have good relations with America [words indistinct]; for America has had deep roots in our country and is responsible for a great many crimes committed in our country. Even after the revolution it transpired that America intended to continue the same policy of the past; it was trying to safeguard its colonial interests. However, realizing it could not do so, it resorted to plots. So America continues to remain our enemy and, accordingly, we are America's enemy. I believe that this will continue for a long time.

As for what we have there, they agreed to return what we have there; this was agreed during the hostage taking [as heard]. Consequently, as far as this question is concerned, we will have no problem, for considering the undertaking obtained and the backing [poshtvaneh] we enjoy, we can achieve all our demands.

[Question] Iran is not taking part in the Arab summit in At-Ta'if because of Saddam's participation. What is Iran's stance vis-a-vis such conferences and the countries attending them?

[Answer] One of our broad aims is to create unity and cooperation among the Islamic countries. We believe that should world Muslims--that is, nearly one-fourth of the world population--unite then they can become a gigantic force in the world, considering their economic, human and political potentials. The present haphazard situation, in which one part is under the domination of one superpower, under the domination and exploitation of one superpower, or has become an instrument in the hand of some superpower, must end. This will be the orientation of our foreign policy in the future. Regrettably, the situation at the Islamic Conference summit is such that we cannot attend it; for when they convene as heads of Islamic countries with the participation of Saddam as head of an Islamic country, then how can we (?attend) this conference?

[Question] The upcoming anniversary of the revolution will be marked as revolution week, 7-12 February. What do you recommend about giving maximum coverage to the Islamic revolution's developments both at home and abroad? Also, on 11 February two speakers are to speak in Tehran. What is your view about this?

[Answer] Some time ago the organizing headquarters responsible for marking the second anniversary of the revolution invited me to take part in their program and to deliver a speech at the end of the march. I accepted this invitation. Later, a statement was released by the president's office, announcing that the president would speak on that day. However, since during such gatherings two long and serious speeches tend to make people tired, I thought of asking the organizing headquarters to excuse me from making a speech or taking part in the program; this would give Mr Bani-Sadr more time and allow him to make a longer speech. Thank you.

DEZFUL GUARDS LAUD RESULTS OF HOSTAGE AFFAIR

GF230800 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Communique issued by the public relations department of the Dezful Islamic Revolution Guards Corps--date not given]

[Text] "The value of this hostage taking in the world is that you have broken the big idol they had created, the idol that had taken all the countries"--Imam Khomeyni. This revolutionary and Muslim nation of ours, led by the uncompromising imam and contrary to the plots of the United States and its internal agents such as the Westernized, the mischiefmakers and the American leftists, has been able to rub the face of the murdering United States in the dirt because of its strength and durability and on the basis of its just position. This has forced the decadent West to surrender against the iron will of the Iranian nation.

When the U.S. spies were taken hostage by the Muslim Iranian nation it was a turning point in the history of the struggle between our people and the oppressed of the world. Our nation demonstrated again that it can rise against these flimsy powers and wrench their rights away.

We express our gratitude to the Islamic Assembly, the revolutionary government of brother Raja'i and especially the student followers of the imam and the martyr-nurturing people for their efforts. We warn them that they should prepare for the next plots of the great Satan and the long and difficult struggle against the world devourers. By further closing their united ranks, and under the prophetic leadership of our idol-destroying imam, Khomeyni the great, they will neutralize their plots. We pray to the Almighty for a lengthy life for our great imam.

KHOMEYNI WARNS OF CORRUPT INFLUENCES IN SCHOOLS

LD221638 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1116 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: As was brought to your attention at the start of this newscast, a group of schoolchildren and various groups of people from Tehran were received in audience by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During this audience, at which the members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Shahrud va Damghan, some residents of Sari and Amol and members of the prophet's mosque of Qom were also present, the imam of the nation made a speech. By broadcasting the text of the imam's speech, we end this midday newscast of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. May God be with you and have a good day.

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The first goal of the deviants, those who would rather not see our ideolgy reach its destination, those who have been slapped on the face by Islamic ideology and those who think that the Islamic ideology is against their interests and the interests of their masters, is to corrupt our schools, where our children, juveniles and youth go to learn manners. They want to divert our schools, which are the source of all blessings, and our youth, who must lead the country through difficulties to the position it deserves and save it from the claws of the aliens. Therefore, you can see that plots (?begin) at schools, and universities become centers of conspiracy. You are their target; they plan to divert you from dear Islam. They want to transform universities, high schools, primary schools and all centers of education and purification to centers in which, if any science is taught, it serves the interests of the major powers. The output of these sacred places would also serve the interests of the superpowers. First the enemy diverts our youth from primary schools; then as our children grow older, he takes additional steps. From nursery schools to universities, the filthy hands of colonialism are present. They know that if they divert our youth from the straight path of God, they can achieve their sinister goals. Therefore, their efforts begin in nursery schools and continue through universities. They want to corrupt centers which should be used to reform society in accordance with spiritual principles and which should provide material resources for our dear country; then they will sit down and look at our youth, who have become the means for spreading corruption.

You young people all over the country, from kindergartens to universities--which must be a place of science and purification--must remain vigilant and save these centers from corruption yourselves. Those who come to these centers for propaganda purposes must be watched by you and the teachers. You must discover the past of these people and their present stands.

Today your country is a center of conspiracy, because your country has inflicted heavy demands on the superpowers and has slapped the major powers so hard that they will not calm down unless they can, as they hope, turn this country into what it was before dragging it yet again into corruption.

They know that by corrupting our children, the corruption will remain with them for the rest of their lives. If they corrupt our juveniles, then this country will be corrupted. They can corrupt our country by corrupting our high schools and universities.

Those who go to schools and with their propaganda encourage our juveniles to engage in some activity which will divert their attention from education want to keep our children from learning anything. They do not want us to train our children to become useful members of society. Therefore, they use various pretexts to drag our children to demonstrations, marches and debates. Then they sit down and laugh at you and us. That is why they were trying so hard to reopen universities before the correct programs were implemented. They wanted to have universities similar to what we had before and produce the kind of graduates for society like those who ran the country in the past. Thus, they go to kindergartens and high schools and with their propaganda and provocations encourage our children to fight among themselves instead of studying. They drag our children into disgrace and [words indistinct] instead of the purification of the soul. This is the same program that we had in the past.

All our children and youth, boys and girls, must try hard to recognize these people and understand their goals. You must find out what these people were before. You must understand that at a time when our youth, in the army, guards corps, gendarmerie and other popular forces are sacrificing themselves on the battlefronts, these people are spreading corruption behind the fronts; they are busy helping their masters. You must know that foreign and deviate radios are supporting these people and condemn the Islamic Republic. Foreign radios do not want the Islamic Republic to exist. Just as Saddam and other corrupt ones attacked and imposed a war upon us, these people are waging a similar war, in another form, at schools and universities. They are all agents of aliens; and you, wherever you are, must pay attention to these facts. Be careful that they do not deceive you as they deceived Hamid [an alleged foreign agent who spoke about foreign plots on Iranian television recently]. [Words indistinct] I pray that God makes you useful for our country; and may He guide our youth on a straight path and help all of us to serve Islam and the Islamic country. [shouts of "amen"] May God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you all. [shouts of "you are my soul, Khomeyni"] [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTRY RESPONSE TO SOVIET PROTEST NOTE

LD221316 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1039 GMT 22 Jan 81

["Text" of 22 January statement issued by the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran in response to a 13 January note from the USSR Government]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran deems it necessary, in response to a note delivered to the Iranian Foreign Ministry by the Soviet Embassy's minister plenipotentiary on 13 January 1981 and a similar note delivered to the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Moscow several days earlier, respectfully to state the following:

Regarding the incident in the USSR Embassy on 27 December 1980, officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have already stated their positions. In this connection, referring to the motive behind the incident and expressing the hope that the motives which prompt such incidents are eliminated as soon as possible, government officials expressed regret over the manifestation of violent actions and have undertaken to provide compensation for the financial damages determined through investigation to have been caused by this incident. The words of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran should have been accepted by the USSR Government because of the truth and facts they enshrined and because the issue is regarded as over.

The protest note, dated 13 January, from the Soviet Union containing material insulting to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has, however, put a question mark over the good will of the Iranian Government's officials, who had no knowledge of the violent actions and threats. Contrary to expectation, these actions became a propaganda topic for imperialist and Zionist institutions against the Islamic revolution of Iran and the Iranian Islamic republican system. In its statement [as heard], the Soviet Government accused the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran of violating the most elementary international traditions observed by civilized countries, questioned the ability of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide security for its subjects and institutions and threatened this government that it would take action independently to provide security for its subjects and institutions.

Declaring once again that it wants good-neighbor relations with its northern neighbor, and that the two sides can take positive steps toward securing stability and security along the 2,500-km common border, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to note the following points:

We would like to know, at a time when the Islamic Republic of Iran is being subjected to a savage onslaught by the civilized countries of the 20th century because of its anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist stance--civilized countries which believe in no principles other than oppression, plunder and devourment of the world--and at a time when Reagan, a representative of this civilized front, strives in his interviews to portray Iran as a country without a government and order, why is it when that the Soviet Government, which regards itself as a supporter of anti-imperialist movements in the world and of the Iranian Islamic revolution, adopts an approach similar to that adopted by Reagan and regards us as violators of the most elementary international traditions which are a distinguishing feature of the civilized world?

Our nation would like to know what purpose the Soviet Government is pursuing when it says that if the Iranian Government is unable to do its duty regarding guaranteeing the security of Soviet institutions and their staffs, it will do the job itself. Does the Soviet Government see itself as being entitled to extraterritorial judicial immunity? If this is so, then why is it that in all conventions, statements and international assemblies, it has rejected the possession of this illegitimate right by other powerful states?

It is deemed necessary to point out that such incidents [demonstrators attacking an embassy] are not without precedent in the world, and, since we reject the action in itself, such incidents should never justify the use of the sentence "we shall take action ourselves." In principle, what objective is the Soviet Government pursuing by raising the issue after 17 days--and even then with sensationalism and propaganda ballyhoo? The foremost supporter and subscriber of this line was the colonialist American Government so that it could wage a propaganda campaign over the spy hostages. Is this part of a deal; is it an attempt to pave the way for silence about future American plots?

How can one explain the harmony between the Soviet Government and America and between the Soviet Government and the reactionaries in the region dependent upon that harmony? How can one explain the pressure put on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran while it is confronting singlehandedly all the means at the disposal of international imperialism, of which Saddam's aggression is but one?

Our Muslim nation is sensitive about the above-mentioned questions and expects these matters to be studied expeditiously. The USSR is aware of the fact that the Muslim Iranian nation, by overthrowing the shah, removed one of imperialism's most important pawns in the region, one of the greatest American espionage bases and numerous other limitations [tazyiqat] that American used against you in Iran. This was accomplished because of the nature of our Islamic revolution.

We do not expect you to thank us; in this vein we would like to declare that the support of the Soviet Government for some of the Islamic Republic of Iran's anti-imperialist positions and actions and the provision of transit facilities during the economic blockade are somthing we thank you for. This is something to be expected from a government which describes itself as revolutionary. Having said this, we would like the Soviet side, respecting the Islamic revolution of the Iranian nation, to extend its support for good-neighbor relations. We would like to believe that the above-mentioned objectives were certainly not intended by our northern neighbor, and with confidence in this we once again assure you that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as an independent, sovereign nation and as a member of the international community, does not only want but is also able to provide security for all the foreign missions and their staffs in Iran, including the Soviet Embassy and its personnel, and to protect them.

Once again we express regret over the incident and declare that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran does not desire hostile clashes of this kind and respects the freedom of views.

AFP REPORT ON CORRESPONDENTS' EXPLUSION DENIED

LD221424 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1047 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] In connection with the denial of an AFP report on the expulsion of foreign correspondents, the following statement has been issued by the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In His exalted name. In connection with an AFP report regarding a statement issued by the person in charge of correspondents in the Guidance Ministry regarding the expulsion of American, British, Chinese, French and Russian correspondents effective 11 February and that this decision had been taken by the Foreign Ministry in response to the stance adopted by these governments toward Iran, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly denies the said assertions and points out that the Foreign Ministry has made no decision regarding the correspondents of the said states and that, in principle, any new decision in this regard is the prerogative of the Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran or of the Supreme Defense Council.

The minsiter of Islamic guidance has also issued the following statement today:

In His exalted name. This is to state that a report published by PARS citing an AFP dispatch regarding the banning of the press organs of the five countries of America, the USSR, Britain, France and the PRC, effective 11 February, is in no way whatsoever confirmed by this ministry and is strongly denied.

MINISTER SIGNS AGREEMENTS WITH ALGERIA, DEPARTS

JN230849 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Jan 81

[Text] Brother Musa Kalantari, Iranian minister of roads and transport, left Algiers for Beirut yesterday at the end of a 3-day visit.

During the visit, the minister signed two agreements for cooperation in the fields of air and sea transport between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the fraternal Algerian Government.

The first agreement provides for cooperation between the two states' airways in the technical fields, training human cadres and exchanging planes during the pilgrimage seasons and [word indistinct] new tourist lines between Algiers, Damascus and Tehran.

The second agreement provides for cooperation in the fields of promoting the Algerian and Iranian airways, forming a joint shipping company, Algeria's granting of maritime facilities to Iran and studying the possibilities of cooperation in the construction of railway lines in the two fraternal states.

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE SUMMIT DELEGATION ARRIVES

JN230623 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Jan 81

[Text] The Islamic Conference summit delegation arrived in Tehran at 0215 today.

The delegation is made upif Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization; Ilter Turkmen, Turkish foreign affairs minister; Abdoulaye Toure, Guinean minister of external affairs and cooperation; Agha Shahi, Pakistani foreign affairs minister; and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

Brother Behzad Nabavi, minister of state and government spokesman, had announced that Iran would not participate in the Islamic Conference summit, to be held in holy Mecca next Sunday, due to Saddam's participation in this conference.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is completely ready to provide the necessary facilities to enable the Islamic delegation to visit the battlefronts in the west and south of the country and acquaint themselves with the nature of the war imposed by Iraq on us and the ugly crimes perpetrated by Saddam's regime against the Msulim Iranian people. Thus, the delegation would be certain that Saddam is working and planning in the interest of imperialism and to strengthen his masters' control at the expense of making hundreds of thousands of people homeless and destroying their houses without any reason.

TEHRAN: IRAQI MUJAHIDIN CABLE HABIB CHATTI

JN230751 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Jan 81

[Text] PARS says that the Iraqi mujahidin have sent a cable to the secretary general of the Islamic Conference citing the threats to the Islamic issues of the Islamic region's peoples.

Addressing the leaders of the states participating in the Islamic Conference summit, the mujahidin said: Today, the Iraqi people are living under the worst and most violent kinds of torture, extermination, pressure and fearful dictatorship. The most prominent example of this is the killing of more than 5,000 Muslims through execution or poisoning following sham trials. Other examples are: the execution of more than 200 Muslim 'ulema, including the eminent scholar martyr Ayatollah Muhammad Baqer as-Sadr; the arrest of more than 150,000 people; the expulsion of more than 45,000 Iraqi citizens; the confiscation of their money and property; and the detention of their sons as hostages.

The mujahidin also cited the deteriorating economy of the country under Saddam, adding that the Iraqi war imposed on Iran is a new colonialist plot aimed at impeding and paralyzing the rising Islamic consciousness in the region through the incitement of national, religious and border disputes among the region's Muslims in an attempt to entrench the racists' power. The mujahidin pointed out that this is what Ba'th founder Michel 'Aflaq desires.

The Iraqi mujahidin called for an appeal to the conscience of the region's states and for an investigation of inhuman acts of the Iraqi Government.

They also called on the leaders of the states participating in the summit to strongly denounce the Iraqi war against Iran.

RAJA'I ADDRESSES KHOMEYNI TOWNSHIP REFUGEES

LD221732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Excerpts] A correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic reports from Bandar-e Langeh that Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raj'i, accompanied by the deputy for Bandar 'Abbas at the Islamic Consultative Assembly, arrived at Bandar-e Langeh airport and was welcomed by the governor general of Hormozgan, the governor and the imam's representative in Bandar-e Langeh, Shi'ite and Sunni clergy and local dignitaries and people.

The prime minister then visited Imam Khomeyni township, where about 4,000 refugees from Khuninshahr and Abadan are staying. The prime minister addressed them, saying there are certain events in man's history to which people react according to their maturity. Our revolution has a great many enemies because of its authenticity. Our Islamic revolution came into being by the will of the people, but it was attacked by those who could not tolerate seeing our people free.

The prime minister then added: It is our right to defend our revolution, honor and prestige. It is history which dictates that people should defend their prestige and [words indistinct]. In another part of his speech Mr Raja'i said: All those who oppose us are Satans, for we are on God's side; we are not fighting to bully others or to conquer other countries. Over the past 2 years we have achieved things which have had no parallel in the world. A nation that launched the great struggle against imperialism and for 14 months forced it to kneel before it; a nation that showed the world that it is America which is the aggressor, that the word embassy has lost its meaning, that it is a spy den. Our revolutionary brother students launched this move in the best possible manner and continued it. The Majlis approved the best terms, and your government, enjoying your support, managed to resolve it in the best possible manner. We do hope that this move will continue.

According to the latest report, the prime minister arrived at Bandar 'Abbas at 1830 hours.

BANI-SADR INSPECTS FORCES IN KHUZESTAN, DEPARTS

LD221808 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] A PARS dispatch reports that Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, together with Brigadier General Fallahi, acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning inspected installations and operations behind the front in Khuzestan. During this visit which lasted 2 hours the president chatted informally with the personnel and officials responsible for each section and, while acquainting himself with their problems, issued instructions in order to meet their shortages, to obtain better capabilities for speeding up operational affairs behind the front and called on them to redouble their activities and efforts. The same dispatch reports that Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, who had traveled to the country's southern fronts in order to supervise and follow up the measures and operations of the forces defending the Islamic revolution, returned to Tehran this afternoon.

According to this dispatch the president, on the occasion of the 40th day after the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Abu Torabi, will deliver an address in the city of Qazvin at 0930 tomorrow.

BANI-SADR ARRIVES IN QAZVIN, SALUTES MARTYRS

LD231130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau dispatch, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr this morning arrived at the barracks of Qazvin's seminarists, the political deputy to the governor general of Zanjan, the governor of Qazvin, heads of departments and a number of law enforcement officials. According to this report, the president, after arriving in Qazvin, together with his entourage took part in a session and talked with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Seyyed 'Abbas Abu Torabi and Mr Ahmad Sadr Seyyed Javadi, Qazvin representatives in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, clergymen and a number of local officials pertaining to various problems of Qazvin city and the region.

Mr Bani-Sadr together with his entourage then went to Qazvin's An-Nabi mosque in order to speak at ceremonies marking the 40th day after the martyrdom of the combatant clergyman Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Abu Torabi. He addressed the meeting. After saluting the martyrs of the city of Qazvin, all martyrs of the imposed war, and also Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Abu Torabi, he said: During this oppressive war imposed on us by the foes of Islam, your city has remained and is the birthplace of believing crusaders and intrepid fighters who have sacrificed their lives on the battlefield of honor and glory with the utmost steadfastness.

In another part of his speech he said: I say at your great meeting that it is absolutely unprecedented in mankind's modern history for a nation with a dependent economy and a nation whose arms and ammunition have had to be imported from abroad to have been fighting for the past 4 months without receiving the smallest assistance from anywhere. Our nation is conducting this great war alone. From the standpoint of the fate of the current and future generations this is a destiny-shaping war solely thanks to the lofty purpose, thoughts and muscle of today's great generation. The history of mankind is viewing with lofty vision our nation, a nation which is ready to obtain its independence at any price.

OLOF PALME COMMENTS ON MEDIATION EFFORTS

LD221346 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1130 GMT 22 Jan 81

["Radio Magazine" program]

[Text] This morning Olof Palme returned home to Sweden from his second trip as a UN mediator in the conflict between Iran and Iraq. Palme had discussions with most of the eminent political leaders in both countries. Last time it was necessary chiefly to listen and to learn, Palme said. This time we were able to deal together with important questions of principle, and Palme said that he found agreement on certain points.

[Begin recording] [Palme] There is great agreement on the basic principles which are to form the basis of peace in the area. We have [words indistinct] are included in all the different elements in an overall peace settlement.

[Question] Can you specify these?

[Answer] Yes. For instance, the land border, Shatt al-'Arab, security in the Gulf area and (?not least) the question of nonintervention in the affairs of a neighboring country.

[Question] There is now much speculation to the effect that the solution of the hostage affair will change the conditions. Iran may receive new weapons and new resources which could prolong the war.

[Answer] Yes. There are those who speculate in this way, and others who speculate that this will now open the way for an agreement. I dare not speculate. But this much was clear: The hostage affair had to be settled before we could enter serious discussions on a settlement of the war.

[Question] Is there any difference in the mood during this trip in comparison with the earlier trip?

[Answer] I feel there is a growing interest in a peaceful solution. No one can avoid seeing the appalling destruction caused by the war, the material destruction and the number of dead, or seeing the risks of the spreading of the war or the sacrifices in the peaceful development of these countries. It is not surprising that interest in a peaceful solution is growing, but at the same time the parties' positions in certain points at issue are still extremely hard.

[Answer] On the one hand is Iran's demand that as a condition for any talks Iraqi troops must leave Iranian territory; on the other hand is the Iraqi demand that before any such withdrawal can take place, they must have guarantees that certain central points of their demands will be fulfilled.

[Question] What will be the next step in your mediation task?

[Answer] It will be to return to the area as soon as possible after the big Islamic Conference meeting has taken place. I saw a press statement yesterday stating that President Bani-Sadr said that during my next visit he would ask for certain clarifications on my part, and this indicates that there is a relative urgency regarding the matter. [end recording]

REASONS FOR FAILURE OF UN MEDIATION ANALYZED

JN221044 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0625 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Why the UN Efforts Fail To Solve the Problem of the Iraqi-Iranian War"]

[Excerpts] [Words indistinct] observer of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran finds that such a policy is based on the following foundations: ejecting any kind of hegemony or subservience; maintaining complete independence and the unity of the homeland's territories; defending the rights of all Muslims; and establishing mutual relations of neighborliness with the (?nonaligned) states. Thus, the UN efforts to solve the problem of the Iranian-Iraqi war will continue to be failures since they are not within the framework of this foreign policy, in which Iran ideologically believes.

This foreign policy is contradictory to the UN Organization's belief, since this organization seeks to impose international laws and norms that were laid down in order to strike at the oppressed, tighten the noose around the poor and [words indistinct]. Furthermore, it would be difficult for the United Nations, which has still not denounced the Iraqi aggression against Islamic Iran, to adopt the stand of conciliator since the least a conciliator can do is protest against, object to and denounce the aggression as much as it is in its power to do so in order to be acceptable to the other side when it takes upon itself the (?role of conciliator). Otherwise, and if the UN stand does not follow this course, such a stand will be doubted by the other side; namely, the side which has been subjected to aggression.

This is why brother Rafsanjani said at the end of his talks with UN envoy Olof Palme: I hope that you are a true caller for reconciliation and justice, since the real call for reconciliation should be preceded by a denunciation of the aggression. This has still not been done by the United Nations concerning the infidel Iraqi attack on the territory and sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The United Nations neither can nor wants to tell Iraq to withdraw since it is aware that [words indistinct] lies behind such a word and it does not want the Iraqi regime--the current imperialist [word indistinct] in the region--to achieve this.

The Iraqi people, whose hearts have been seared by Saddam's Qadisiyah, are asking the following questions: How do you justify the shedding of our sons' blood, oh Saddam? How do you justify the absence of our sons, who have disappeared in places only known to God and the Iranian people? How do you justify the destruction of Iraq and its wealth?

The United Nations knows that Saddam has no convincing answers for such questions, which only mean revolt against Saddam in order to overthrow him and establish an Islamic state, which would also not believe in the decisions of the superpowers [word indistinct]. This would, in turn, expand hostility to world imperialism.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES

382: Fighting on Various Fronts

LD221744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Communique No 382 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name, Combatants, Muslim compatriots in Iran, you are hereby informed of certain 21 Jan operations and selfless actions of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran which took place on various battlefronts:

1. Thanks to artillery and heavy weapons fire of the combatants of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on one of the fronts in Ahvaz, one enemy tank, three vehicles, two heavy machineguns, one mortar and one ammunitiion dump of the mercenary forces of the Iraqi Army were set ablaze and destroyed. Also during these operations over 40 enemy mercenaries were killed or wounded.

2. Also on the Abadan front, thanks to fire by our forces' combatants, one enemy tank, one loader, one mortar and a number of trenches were destroyed. During these operations a number of Iraqi Army servicemen were killed or wounded while our self-sacrificing forces suffered one martyred and nine wounded. As a result of enemy artillery fire, two houses in Abadan were destroyed, one of our dear compatriots was martyred and another was wounded.

3. The fighting combatants of the gendarmerie on one of the western fronts, by assaulting the positions of the Iraqi mercenaries, forced them to retreat. Suffering appreciable losses the enemy forces left behind two RPG-7 rocket launchers, field glasses and one body. During these operations two gendarmerie combatants were martyred and two were wounded.

4. Clashes and fighting continued on most western fronts with exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire between our heroic forces and the aggressive forces of the Iraqi Army.

5. One Iraqi MiG, which intended to attack Hamadan, was forced to flee thanks to the region's antiaircraft gunfire.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

'Plots' in Mahabad

LD221856 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Unnumbered communique of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the wave of colonialist attacks and plots against this divine revolution have not ceased for a moment and these enemies, by fomenting clashes in Kordestan's regions and an imposed war in the western and southern parts of the Islamic homeland of Iran, have planned to endanger the very existence of our Islamic revolution.

Unfortunately, the international colonialists' domestic mercenaries, too, by hatching overt and covert plots are aiding them in carrying out these satanic plans. These foes of Islam and Iran, by recently circulating ill-intentioned rumors about the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, intend to provoke riots in the city of Mahabad and thereby implement their odious designs.

The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran hereby assures its Kurdish compatriots that it will strongly struggle to safeguard the Islamic revolution against unlawfully armed individuals who have disrupted order in the region in the interest of the colonialists, and it hereby warns our Kurdish compatriots not to be deceived by these hypocrites and not to assist them unwittingly in carrying out their filthy designs.

In the meantime, while carrying out the behest of the imam of the Islamic nation who has graciously said: "As regards anyone from these domestic wings who has so far perpetrated evil deeds and is engaged in evil doing, should he renounce such acts and put aside arms and return to the embrace of the nation, we will accept him," all unlawfully armed individuals who have not committed murder, provided they have given up supporting counterrevolution, hand over their arms to the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and seek refuge in the embrace of the Islamic revolution, will be granted sanctuary.

Once again during these sensitive, fateful moments of Iran's Islamic homeland we would like to remind our dear compatriots in Mahabad not to be misled by these outwardly deceptive hypocrites and, armed with revolutionary insight, they should drive them from their midst.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

ROUNDUP OF REPORTS FROM SOUTHERN BATTLEFRONTS

LD221829 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] According to PARS, fighting continued today along the entire Ahvaz fronts between the combatants of Islam and the forces of blasphemy. According to the same report, yesterday on the Ahvaz-Khuninshahr axis the zealous soldiers of Islam succeeded in killing 35 personnel of the blasphemous Saddam's forces. They also destroyed two enemy tanks and three personnel carriers.

According to the Central News Bureau, today on the battlefronts of Susangerd and Malihan artillery of the combatants of Islam opened fire on the positions of Saddam's infidels; and the enemy suffered some losses and damage. One of the military commanders of the battlefront told a correspondent of the Central News Bureau that after the artillery fire of these combatants, thick smoke was rising from enemy positions this morning which was a sign of the destruction of their military equipment. During yesterday also one enemy tank was destroyed by the artillery fire of our forces and six of the enemy were killed.

The operational commander of the guards corps of Susangerd is quoted as saying that enemy positions came under the mortar fire of our self-sacrificing brothers of the guards corps and mobilization forces last night. Also during a series of guerrilla operations, during the past 2 nights, two trucks, one command jeep, several tanks, two squad tents and several trenches of the enemy personnel were completely destroyed. During this clash, which was very successful for our combatants, one member of the brave forces of Islam gained the exalted rank of martyrdom and four others were wounded.

A correspondent of PARS reported: During the past 24 hours, 13 combatants of Islam, who had been wounded in battle against the agent Saddam's forces on the Suangerd, Hoveyzeh and Malekiyeh fronts, were taken to Ahvaz hospitals.

The relief and treatment headquarters of Khuzestan also announced that during this period the sacred bodies of five martyrs of Islam were taken from Ahvaz fronts to the mortuary of this city.

Reports from Dezful also indicate that during the past 24 hours seven combatants of Islam received some wounds in the battle against Saddam's infidels and were taken to Andimeshk hospital. Among this group three were treated and released and four were hospitalized. One person was also martyred on the Dezful front during the same period.

On the Shush front yesterday six defenders of the revolution gained the honor of martyrdom.

FIGHTING CONTINUES IN KERMANSHAH, ILAM

LD221830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1646 GMT 22 Jan 81

[Text] A PARS dispatch from Kermanshah reports that battle continued to rage today with an exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire on the Zahab, Gilan-e Gharb, Sumar, Zeheh Zard, (Meymak) fronts and on the hills around the Konjamcham, (Arakavaz) and Malekshahi in the Provinces of Kermanshahan and Ilam; and in (Meymak) the battle raged even more fiercely.

This dispatch reports that on the Sumar axis Islam's combatants destroyed one vehicle and a number of trenches of the enemies of the Islamic revolution. No accurate figures are available about enemy casualties on these fronts.

This dispatch reports that on the (Meymak) front the enemy lost several trenches and then beat a retreat. The combatants of Islam in a series of infiltration operations in enemy territory blew up two enemy ammunition-carrying vehicles.

On the Sumar front, the combatants of Islam, using artillery, destroyed several enemy showpiece trenches and their servicemen.

KURDISH PARTY ADDRESSES NATION ON ANNIVERSARY

JN222005 [Editorial Report] The clandestine Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Surani Kurdish signed on at 1130 GMT on 22 January to broadcast a 1-hour "special program" as previously announced, on the 35th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Kordestan on 22 January 1946. Reception was largely indistinct.

In addition to patriotic Kurdish songs, Koranic recitations, poetry and a biography of "immortal martyr" Qadi Muhammad, first president of short-lived Kordestan Republic, the special program included the 12-minute text of a message addressed by the "Central Committee of the Kurdish Democratic Party in Iran" to "The Iranian peoples, nationalist organizations and independent figures."

After reviewing the history of the Kurdish people's struggle against the Pahlavi regime, the message goes on to outline the suffering of the Kurdish people under the current regime in Iran, saying: "The Kurdish Democratic Party in Iran has tried and is trying to solve the problem of Kordestan peacefully in order to avoid fighting among brothers. Unfortunately, our calls are always met with opposition and indifference by the authorities, which continue to practice a policy through which they want to crush our free people and impose dictatorship and reaction."

The message continues: "The formation of a united national front is necessary for the struggle against imperialism and reaction," and adds: "Once again, the Kurdish Democratic Party in Iran calls on all the nationalist forces that care about Iran's freedom to form a national front in order to bring about our blessed objectives."

The message concludes: "The Central Committee hopes that its party members and supporters will continue the struggle along the path of the immortal martyr, Qadi Muhammad, in order to realize our higher objectives. The banner of struggle will continue to fly high until the establishment of democracy in Iran and autonomy in Kordestan."

NVOI COMPARES SOVIET, U.S. GULF POLICIES

TA221835 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 22 January carried a commentary entitled "Two Contradictory Policies." The commentary said that tension in the Persian Gulf is mounting steadily. The powerful U.S. naval force stationed in this region is not only aggravating tension, but is drawing a number of the reactionary regimes of the region into the orbit of Washington's militaristic policy. We are all aware that it is America that has created such tension in the Persian Gulf region. The United States is not ready to accept the transformations that have taken place in the lives of the nations of this region. Therefore, Washington has adopted a policy of preserving its plundering oil interests in the region with the force of arms. The ultimate goal of U.S. imperialism is the establishment of its unchallenged domination in this oil-rich region of the world.

The policy of the Soviet Union in the Persian Gulf region is exactly the opposite of the U.S. policy. The Soviet Union once again demonstrated that it is exerting its efforts toward the establishment of peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region. Toward this end it has suggested proposals consisting of five articles. The peaceful initiative of the Soviet Union regarding stabilizing conditions in the Persian Gulf, above all, concerns the United States, which has concentrated large naval and military forces in the Persian Gulf region. It is a mistake if one believes that the intensification of tension in the Persian Gulf and the escalation of U.S. military presence for the purpose of committing military aggression on Persian Gulf countries is divorced from the U.S. policy of supporting Israel in the Arab East. During his recent visit Kissinger pursued the goal of placing the Islamic nations of the Middle and Near East against each other, and made another effort to convince Saudi Arabia and Oman to patch up a military pact under U.S. leadership.

The true revolutionary forces and the nations of the Middle and Near East support any proposal to alleviate tensions in the Persian Gulf, especially the Soviet proposal in this connection. Up to this date countries like Kuwait and the Democratic Republic of Yemen and a number of other countries have declared their support for these proposals.

SRI LANKA

JAYEWARDENE CONGRATULATES REAGAN ON INAUGURATION

BK211129 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] President Jayewardene, in a message of felicitations to the new U.S. President, said he was confident that during his presidency the bonds between the two countries would grow stronger. He said he looked forward to the United States under Reagan's leadership moving toward a goal which the two people cherish, namely peace and prosperity in the world. A message of felicitations was also sent by the prime minister.

NEPAL

KING BIRENDRA CONGRATULATES REAGAN ON INAUGURATION

BK211514 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] His majesty the king has greeted Ronald W. Reagan on his inauguration as the President of the United States of America. In a mesage of warm felicitation, his majesty has expressed confidence that the close and friendly relations of cooperation between Nepal and the United States would be further strengthened during Reagan's tenure of office. His majesty has also wished the new U.S. President every success in leading his country and achieve [words indistinct] greater heights of peace and prosperity.

DALAI LAMA MAKES RELIGIOUS VISIT TO NEPAL

BK221533 Hong Kong AFP in English 0535 GMT 21 Jan 81

[Text] Katmandu, 21 Jan (AFP)--The Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetans, today visited Lumpini, the birthplace of Buddha situated about 250 kilometers southwest of Katmandu, and offered prayers at the Buddhist shrine there.

This is the first visit of the Dalai Lama, who is living in exile in India since 1959, to the Kingdom of Nepal.

Nepalese official sources here say that Dalai Lama was permitted to visit Lumpini "purely on a religious [basis] and strictly in an individual capacity and not as the representative of any country, sect or people."

The Lama had also given an undertaking not to include in any political activity while in Nepal and assured Nepalese authorities in particular that he would not do or say anything against any country with whom Nepal maintains friendly relations.

The Dalai Lama entered into the Nepalese territory from Gorakhpur of Uttar Pradesh Province of India. After spending 3 hours in Nepal, the Dalai Lama returned back to India by car.

A large number of Tibetans had assembled in Lumpini during their spiritual leader's visit there.